



# State Executive CIO

Doug Elkins

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To Members of the Joint Committee on Educational Facilities:

The Technology in Education Task Force respectfully submits the report entitled, *Considerations for Enhancing Education through Technology*. This letter and the one-page attachment represent an Executive Summary for those who want a brief overview of how the study was conducted, the important products of the study and the anticipated use of the results.

The study has been conducted and the report has been prepared by the Technology in Education Task Force at the request of the Arkansas Legislative Joint Committee on Educational Facilities. The report contains information, needs and possible options to consider for enhancing education in Arkansas through the improved use of technology. This report represents the results of work done by the Task Force and collaborating organizations from September 2003 through October 2004. More than 100 knowledgeable people, and more than eighteen (18) state, federal and private organizations supported and/or made contributions to produce this report.

The Task Force was chaired and facilitated by the Office of the Executive Chief Information Officer. Funding was provided by the Arkansas Department of Education, Department of Workforce Education and the following partners: Alltel, Apple, Cisco, IBM, Gateway, Plato and SBC.

The most important products of the work done by the Task Force are the possible options for utilizing technology as an education enabler across the state. A summary table of these optional solutions and the important needs to be satisfied is attached to this letter and is included in Section 3 of the report.

It is anticipated that the descriptions of the needs and the optional solutions presented in the report will help the state legislative and executive decision makers to take the actions necessary and expedient for enabling Arkansas schools to satisfy the important educational needs related to technology. Such actions are also necessary for Arkansas to maintain the effective utilization of technology that has earned the state national recognition.

The Task Force urges that these important decisions be made without delay in order to provide the technology services and to meet the ever increasing technology needs that were discovered and presented in the report. The progress of our schools and the modern education for our children depends on it.

Any questions may be directed to Dr. Drew Mashburn, at 501-682-5256.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Elkins".

Doug Elkins

## Summary Table of Possible Optional Solutions

Optional Solutions for Stage 1	Needs Satisfied	Preliminary Cost Expectations	“Who is Involved”
Access Arkansas K-12 Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More and enhanced quality professional development training for teachers and administrators to utilize available technology.</li> <li>Improved administrative support and leadership in modeling the importance and effective use of technology in their work.</li> <li>Meet parents' expectations for more on-line resources and communications from their schools to improve their involvement and participation in their child's education.</li> <li>Improve the core curriculum scores of Arkansas high school students by utilizing proven technology models.</li> </ul>	Program Development Costs: \$25 per student, at 450,000 students = \$11,250,000 first year costs, plus yearly maintenance costs for ongoing program operations. [Note: these costs are for program development and do not include additional network bandwidth, computers or operations.]	Administration to be determined; refer to <b>Section 5</b> for possibilities.
Creation of an Arkansas Coordinating Council for Distance Education	Improved statewide coordination for distance learning services to provide: a) better content distribution and process for courses to be acquired, and b) a centralized clearing house, calendar, and on-line registration, c) web-based catalogue for online K-12 distance learning programs; and d) stronger curriculum content, academic integrity and proof of effectiveness.	Costs would be absorbed in existing agency budgets.	ADE Distance Learning Center, Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts, Arkansas Virtual High School, Legislative and Executive branches of state government, Office of the Executive CIO, AETN
State Network Bandwidth	Need for additional State Network capabilities which require additional bandwidth in the upcoming years.	Substantial costs involved. However, E-rate would cover portion of cost required.	Arkansas Department of Information Systems (DIS), ADE, Office of ECIO, Telecommunication providers,
A Technology in Education Endorsement for Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase Awareness and Compliance with the National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers</li> <li>More and enhanced quality professional development training for teachers and administrators to utilize available technology.</li> </ul>	Cost would involve additional faculty, equipment and curriculum at Arkansas colleges endorsing teachers	Colleges/Universities, AR Department of Higher Education, AR Department of Education (ADE)
Provide Adequate On-Site Technology Support and Technology Integration Support Personnel	Lack of on-site technical support personnel in schools for planning installation, troubleshooting and maintenance.	Requires 1 full-time technician per 350-400 computers and peripheral devices; access to instructional integration specialists or endorsements.	ADE, Local Schools, Local Boards, Educational Service Cooperatives
Optional Solutions for Stage 2	Needs Satisfied	Preliminary Cost Expectations	“Who is Involved”
A Statewide One –to-One Laptop Program for Students and Teachers	More computers are needed in classrooms	\$500 per student per 3 years.	ADE, Laptop Provider, Parents, Local School staff, Educational Service Cooperatives
Require the National Educational Technology Standards to become part of the process for approving teacher education programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More and enhanced quality professional development training for teachers and administrators to utilize available technology.</li> <li>Improved Administrative support and leadership in modeling the importance and effective use of technology in their work.</li> <li>Increase Awareness and Compliance with the National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers</li> </ul>	To be determined	Colleges/Universities, Higher Education, ADE
Extend the Environmental and Spatial Technology (EAST) instructional model into other core curriculum courses where appropriate.	Improve the core curriculum scores of Arkansas students by utilizing proven technology models.	To be determined	EAST, ADE, Local Schools